

Of the nearly 4,400 new introductions, a very large number represent work accomplished by the explorations of Mr. Barbour Lathrop, of Chicago, with whom the writer had the pleasure of being associated as Agricultural Explorer. Mr. Lathrop's explorations, which have required about four years of travel abroad, were carried out with the one practical object of making a reconnoissance of the useful plant possibilities of the world, and have successfully covered every continent and touched every important archipelago. Owing to the very out-of-the-way parts of the world visited by Mr. Lathrop, a large number of the seeds and plants secured by him are so rare that they will be exceedingly difficult to replace, and the Office considers itself extremely fortunate to have enlisted the cooperation of such a public-spirited man as Mr. Lathrop, who has conducted these various explorations almost entirely at his own expense, with no other idea than that of benefiting the American public through this branch of the work of the Department of Agriculture. No stronger evidence is needed of the practical value of plant-introduction work than that furnished by Mr. Lathrop's devotion to its study.

The collections of the several Department agricultural explorers which are represented in this inventory have also been gathered from a wide range of the earth's surface. The explorations of Dr. S. A. Knapp, the results of which are represented in the inventory, covered his second voyage to the Orient in 1901-2, and comprised a trip to Hawaii, Japan, China, Manila, the Straits Settlements, and British India in search of information bearing on the rice question of the South. Bavaria, Austria, Dalmatia, Greece, Egypt, Tunis, Algeria, and Spain were explored by the writer for brewing barleys, hops, fruits, and forage crops. Mr. C. S. Scofield made a careful survey of the leguminous fodder and green manure crops of Algeria and incidentally a study of the wheat varieties of France. Mr. M. A. Carleton made a second trip in 1900 through Austria and Roumania, into Russia and Central Asia, and returned through Turkey and Servia in search of cereals and forage crops. Mr. E. R. Lake, a specialist on American prunes, was sent in 1900 on a short trip to the prune-growing regions of France. Dr. J. N. Rose, of the U. S. National Museum, assisted us in 1901 in his botanizing trips in Mexico to secure a collection of desert plants and varieties of other plants of economic importance. Mr. Ernst A. Bessey was sent as agricultural explorer on two expeditions in search of hardy alfalfas and more resistant fruits for the Northwest. The first was through Russia to Turkestan in 1902, and the second to the Caucasus in 1903. Mr. Thomas H. Kearney and Mr. T. H. Means, the latter of the Bureau of Soils, were sent as explorers to the arid regions of Algeria, Tunis, and Egypt in search of better strains of Egyptian cotton and alkali-resistant grains and fodder plants. Mr. P. H. Rolfs, in charge of the Subtropical